

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS STATE 266911

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY IN US

SUBJECT: SEISMIC RESEARCH OBSERVATORIES PROJECT

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 09760 (B) NEW DELHI 14611

1. USGS APPRECIATES EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN APPROACHING IMD CONCERNING POSSIBLE SECOND SRO STATION FOR INDIA. THE IMD RESPONSE REF. (A) SHOWED INTEREST BUT WITH INDICATIONS THAT GOI OFFICIALS WOULD PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE SHILLONG STATION IS OPERATIONAL BEFORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO A SECOND STATION. PRESENT SCHEDULE PROJECTS SHILLONG STATION TO BE OPERATIONAL BY APRIL 76. HOWEVER, THIS MAY SLIP BECAUSE OF IMPORTATION DELAYS BEING ENCOUNTERED.

2. THE DELHI SITE IS STILL TECHNICALLY PREFERABLE TO POSSIBLE ALTERNATE SITES FOR THE SRO. HOWEVER, PROGRAM SCHEDULE AND BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS REQUIRE THAT THE NETWORK OF CURRENTLY AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT BE FULLY OPERATIONAL IN 1976. BECAUSE OF THE LEADTIME REQUIRED FOR SITE PREPARATION, TRAINING AND INSTALLATION, IT IS ESSENTIAL

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THAT ALL OF THE SRO STATIONS BE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO

SITES BY THE END OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR.

3. SUBJECT TO YOUR CONCURRENCE PER REF B., PLEASE CONVEY TO IMD OUR APPRECIATION FOR THEIR INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM AND FACT THAT USGS MUST SELECT A SITE FOR THE SRO EQUIPMENT BY DECEMBER 1975 TO KEEP PACE WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE PROGRAM. SHOULD IMD RESPOND WITH A REQUEST FOR THE EQUIPMENT PRIOR TO THE END OF NOVEMBER, 1975 TO ACCEPT AN SRO STATION IN DELHI, THE REQUEST WILL BE RECEIVED FAVORABLY BY THE USGS. IF IMD STILL WISHES TO EVALUATE SHILLONG EXPERIENCE BEFORE COMMITTING TO SECOND STATION, USGS WILL DIVERT SRO EQUIPMENT HELD FOR DELHI TO AN ALTERNATE SITE, AND RECONSIDER INDIA FOR A SECOND SRO IF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT BECOMES AVAILABLE IN FY 1977. INGERSOLL

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